Changes to the Specification

Please rewrite paragraph 22 of the specification to read as follows:

"[22]   Referring to Figure 4, if the existence of four possible packet priority levels is assumed, a set of five counters 405, 415, 420, 425 and 430 is associated with an output buffer 400 in a network device. Counter 405 can be viewed as a main counter which tracks the actual occupancy level or loading of the associated output buffer. Counter 405 is incremented each time a packet is loaded into the buffer and is decremented each time a packet leaves the buffer. The characteristics (priority level and discard eligibility) of any packet actually loaded into the output buffer are ignored by counter 405."